

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 11, 25-26, 32, and 38 to read as follows:

Subcl 17
B+

1. (Amended) In a communications system, a push-to-talk communication device to participate in a group communication net, said communications system including a controller to manage said group communication net and interface with said push-to-talk communication device, said device comprising:

a processor to convert information signals into packet data suitable for transmission over a distributed network;

a transmitter to transmit packet data through a first channel to said controller over said distributed network;

a receiver to receive packet data through a second channel from said controller over said distributed network; and

a user-activated mechanism to activate said transmitter when a user of said communication device wishes to transmit said packet data to said controller.

Subcl 17
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11. (Amended) In a communications system, an apparatus to adapt a communication device to participate in a group communication net, said communications system comprising at least two communication devices and having a controller to manage said group communication net and interface with said communication devices, said apparatus comprising:

a first port to establish a first channel with said controller over a distributed network;

a processor electrically connected to said first port, wherein said processor is dynamically configurable to send packet data through said first channel to said controller over said distributed network; and

a user-activated mechanism to allow a user of said communication device to transmit said packet data to said controller.

SubC17
 25. (Amended) In a communications system, a push-to-talk communication device to participate in a group communication net, said communications system including a controller to manage said group communication net and interface with said push-to-talk communication device, said device comprising:

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 a processor to convert information signals into packet data suitable for transmission over a distributed network, wherein said processor further comprises identification information, and wherein said processor updates its identification information when its current identification information has or is about to change, and transmits its new identification information to said controller;

a transmitter to transmit packet data through a first channel to said controller over said distributed network;

a receiver to receive packet data through a second channel from said controller over said distributed network; and

a user-activated mechanism to activate said transmitter when a user of said communication device to transmit said packet data to said controller.

SubC17
 26. (Amended) In a push-to-talk communication device, a method for participating in a group communication net, said method comprising:

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 receiving information from a user of said push-to-talk communication device who wishes to transmit to said group communication net through a controller;

converting said information into packet data suitable for transmission over a distributed network; and

transmitting said packet data to said controller over said distributed network for transmitting to said group communication net.

SubC17
 32. (Amended) In a push-to-talk communication device, computer-readable medium embodying a method for participating in a group communication net, said method comprising:

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Cont.
 receiving information from a user of said push-to-talk communication device who wishes to transmit to said group communication net through a controller;

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converting said information into packet data suitable for transmission over a distributed network; and
transmitting said packet data to said controller over said distributed network for transmitting to said group communication net.

36 Subcl 7
38. (Amended) A communication device for participating in a group communication net, comprising:

means for receiving information from a user of said push-to-talk communication device who wishes to transmit to said group communication net through a controller;

means for converting said information into packet data suitable for transmission over a distributed network; and

means for transmitting said packet data to said controller over said distributed network for transmitting to said group communication net.
